

# Jazz/Improvisation Introduction



*6th Grade General Music Class*



# What is jazz?

❖ Tell me what **YOU** think jazz is...



# What does it mean to improvise?

- ❖ Tell me what **YOU** think it means...



# Jazz Defined...

1. **JAZZ** - a type of American music with lively rhythms and melodies that are often made up by musicians as they play

a. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/jazz> (*Merriam - Webster's Dictionary* definition of jazz)



# What is Jazz (cont.)

Jazz is an **original** style of **American Music**. It is a unique **blend of many styles** of music including **gospel** music, **brass bands**, **African** music, **blues**, and **Spanish** music. Jazz incorporates musical notes that are "bent" to create **emotion** in the music. Jazz bands can be unique in that they create **rhythm** from a wide variety of instruments. The rhythms can shift and change throughout the song.

[https://www.ducksters.com/history/us\\_1900s/jazz.php](https://www.ducksters.com/history/us_1900s/jazz.php)



# Improvisation Defined

One of the most unique aspects of jazz is **improvisation**. This is when the **music is made up** during the song. There is an overriding **melody** and **structure** to the song, but the musicians play it **differently each time**. Usually, each musician gets the opportunity to **solo** during the song. They **improvise during their solo** trying out new tricks and ideas to see what works.



# Improvisation Video

- ❖ Wynton Marsalis and Victor Goines
- ❖ Famous jazz trumpet player/band leader/educator
- ❖ Famous jazz tenor saxophonist/clarinetist/educator
- ❖ “Happy Birthday”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= Amwq43-lrM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Amwq43-lrM)



Any questions?